

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 105

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to authorize the governor to do all that is necessary and appropriate to expand enrollment in Tennessee's Medicaid program.

WHEREAS, Tennessee continually ranks in the bottom ten of states when measuring health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, many of these measurable health standards can see improvement with more citizens receiving access to quality, affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, more than 250,000 Tennesseans lack access to affordable healthcare coverage; and

WHEREAS, these Tennesseans include 17,000 veterans who can't get access to VA healthcare benefits; and

WHEREAS, an opportunity exists to provide access to affordable health coverage to these individuals at no cost to Tennessee taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to coverage would prevent the closure of rural hospitals struggling to operate; and

WHEREAS, Governor Haslam has signaled his willingness to continue working on the challenge of healthcare access during this legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly maintains its authority in approving the annual budget to approve other programs just as it has done in addressing prior TennCare Demonstration Amendments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the governor be authorized to do all that is necessary and appropriate to

expand enrollment in Tennessee's Medicaid program pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governor be authorized to take any action he deems necessary and appropriate to increase access to health insurance coverage for Tennessee's citizens, be it by existing governmental programs or one so created toward that end.